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<u>Listing of Claims</u>

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-54 (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) continuously monitoring use of an image memory of the image forming apparatus, and calculating a memory usage rate of the image forming apparatus, wherein the memory usage rate is a percentage of a time period that a percentage of the image memory in use during said time period is within a corresponding predetermined range of percentages;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said memory usage rate calculated in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said memory usage rate; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

58. (previously presented) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring each image forming function of the image forming apparatus, and maintaining a corresponding count of a number of times that the image forming function of the image forming apparatus has been used;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said function usage counts maintained in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said function usage counts; and

(d) transferring said measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

61. (previously presented) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) measuring for each predetermined period of time a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed by the image forming apparatus during said predetermined period of time;

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(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said number of times that facsimile communications have been performed, measured in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said number of times that facsimile communications have been performed; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

62.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 61, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

63.   (previously presented)   A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring line vacancy of the image forming apparatus and measuring an amount of time of line vacancy;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said amount of time of line vacancy measured in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said amount of time of line vacancy; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

64.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 63, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

65.   (new)   An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central

processing apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which continuously monitors use of an image memory and calculates a memory usage rate of the image forming apparatus;

a status memory that stores performance measurement data including said memory usage rate calculated by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said memory usage rate from said status memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to said central processing apparatus.

66. (new) An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which monitors each function of the image forming apparatus and maintains a corresponding count of a number of times that the function of the image forming apparatus has been used;

a memory that stores performance measurement data including the function usage counts;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to the function usage counts from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to said central data processing apparatus.

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67. (new) An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data

processing apparatus. said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which maintains a count of a number of times that

communications have been performed by the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period

of time;

a memory that stores performance measurement data including said count of the number

of times that communications have been performed;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central

data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads from said memory said

measurement data relating to said number of times that communications have been performed;

and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to

said central data processing apparatus.

68. (new) An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data

processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which monitors line vacancy of the image forming

apparatus and measures an amount of time of line vacancy;

a memory that stores performance measurement data including said amount of time of

line vacancy measured by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central

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data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data

relating to said amount of time of line vacancy from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to

said central data processing apparatus.

69. (new) An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data

processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which monitors a number of recording sheets that

have been used for image forming operations of the image forming apparatus and maintains a

count of a number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out;

a memory that stores performance measurement data including said count of the number

of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central

data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data

relating to said count of the number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to

said central data processing apparatus.

70. (new) An image forming apparatus which is operatively connected to a central data

processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism which monitors operations of the image forming

apparatus and measures at least one performance related to the operations of the image forming

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apparatus;

a memory that stores performance measurement data relating to said at least one performance measured by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that receives a request for data transmission from said central data processing apparatus and that, in response to said request, reads said measurement data relating to said at least one performance; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers said data read by said data reading mechanism to said central data processing apparatus.